

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONCORD-CARLISLE

# BULLETIN

LWVCC Website: [www.lwvcc.org](http://www.lwvcc.org)

April 2013

P.O. Box 34 Concord, Massachusetts 01742-0034

Volume 17 2012-13 #4

## CALENDAR

### APRIL

- 3 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting, 64 Strawberry Hill Rd. (Susan Sekuler) 9 coffee, 9:30 mtg  
6 Sat LWVCC House Tour: "What's New!" 10:00 am – 3:00 pm  
17 Wed Last day to register to vote for Carlisle Town Election  
22 Mon Concord Town Meeting (first night), CCHS Auditorium 7:00 pm  
29 Mon Carlisle Town Meeting, Corey Building 7:00 pm  
30 Tues Special Primary US Senate polls open 7 am – 8 pm

### MAY

- 1 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting, 574 Harrington Ave. (Julie Rohwein) 9 coffee, 9:30 mtg  
7 Tues Carlisle Town Election, Carlisle Town Hall 7:00 am – 8:00 pm  
15 Wed LWVCC Annual Meeting, Concord Art Association, 37 Lexington Rd. 6:00-9:30 pm  
17 Fri LWVMA Convention 2013, Boston Marriott Peabody  
18 Sat LWVMA Convention 2013, Boston Marriott Peabody  
22 Wed LWVCC Book Group, Trustees Room, Concord Library 10-11:30 am

### JUNE

- 5 Wed Last Day to Register to vote in Special Election for US Senate  
5 Wed LWVCC Board Meeting, 1360 Monument St. (Nancy Beeuwkes) 9 coffee, 9:30 mtg  
25 Tues Special Election for US Senate polls open 7 am – 8 pm

*Members are invited to attend monthly Board meetings.  
Please contact Cindy or Paula if you would like to attend any of them.*

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization of men and women formed in 1920 and dedicated to the principles of self-government established by the Constitution of the United States. The League works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

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# CO-PRESIDENTS' LETTER

Cindy Nock and Paula Vandever, Co-Presidents

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April 2013

Dear League Members,

A very big thank you to everyone who volunteered, sponsored, attended, planned or otherwise supported the House Tour fundraiser. The event was a terrific success as you will read about in this bulletin. We are very fortunate to have such enormous support from the community. Please take note of the business sponsors and let them know you appreciate their support of the League.

As we prepare for Annual Meeting and State LWV Convention and reflect on the past year we are mindful of our service and commitment to our communities. The League of Women Voters is dedicated to Making Democracy Work and there is much to be done at all levels of our democratic process from local candidate forums and how to run for office workshops to Supreme Court cases at the National level.

Our challenge as an organization is the sustainability of our membership and of our dedicated volunteers. Nationally, the average age of a Leaguer is 75. We need to attract younger women and men to join the LWV and to dedicate themselves to making democracy work. Our Yellow Rose Event committee is looking for members to help with ideas for attracting young people to the League. Women make up over 50% of our population and are underrepresented in our political process. At the National and most State legislative levels, women hold less than 24% of the elected political offices.

We need more female candidates, more voters and more political will and action to solve the problems facing our country. These problems include climate change, economic inequality, marriage inequality and threats to our democratic process. As we are learning through our Yellow Rose Events, women have been subject to extreme suppression throughout the history of our country. But women have stepped up and performed important duties during crucial times in our history. With our political process in a state of paralysis at the national level, now may be the time for women to step forward and play a forceful role in moving our country forward. The League with its large national group network in place and with a rich history of political involvement and influence is an obvious group to play a role in shaping the direction of our democracy at this time in history.

If you can think of a friend, neighbor or acquaintance who you think should join the League, please make it your priority to encourage them to do so. Help them understand the mission of the League, encourage them to join the League and mentor them in becoming involved in the League. If you have enthusiasm and ideas for growing the League please contact any board member by phone (we are all in the LWVCC Membership Directory) or by email at [co-presidents@lwvcc.org](mailto:co-presidents@lwvcc.org).

We look forward to seeing you at Annual Meeting on May 15 at 7:00 PM at the Concord Art Association.

Thank you all very sincerely,  
Cindy Nock and Paula Vandever, Co-Presidents

## **CARLISLE TOWN MEETING**

Carlisle's Town Meeting will be held on Monday evening, April 29 to consider 29 Articles. In addition to the many articles that deal with funding of operations and services and some capital expenditures for school, police, fire and library, resulting in a balanced budget, there are also a number of other articles of interest. There are eight motions in the Community Preservation Act annual authorization article 22 to address funding issues of ongoing and potential projects - to make funds available for the Highland Building (an historic school in the center of Carlisle being considered for community use), Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, a conservation restriction on the Elliott property along the Concord River, a boardwalk through wetlands, capital improvements at Center Park, and study and consulting on two properties, one recently acquired and one currently in use for recreational purposes, which are being considered for affordable housing, possibly for the disabled.

There is a zoning bylaw amendment to allow consideration to extend the existence of an accessory apartment past sale and purchase, an article establishing an Agricultural Commission to promote agricultural activities, educate the public and represent the farming community, and one calling for a one year moratorium on medical marijuana facilities.

Town Election will be on May 7, and depending on how the Town Meeting votes on Article 24, the Selectmen may authorize the polls to open as early as 5:45 a.m. There are no contested races this year, and all open positions have one person running.

## **LWVCC BOOK GROUP**

The last LWVCC Book Group meeting of the 2012-2013 season will be on Wednesday, May 22, 2013 from 10:00-11:30 am in the Trustees Room of the Concord Free Public Library.

The group will discuss *The Lemon Tree* by Sandy Tolan. This book was written over ten years ago and was reissued in a new paperback edition in

2007. It is a critically acclaimed book that focused on the human tragedies caused by the collision of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples in the Middle East. As quoted from the Booklist review: "Tolan focuses on one small stone house in Ramla – once an Arab community but now Jewish. Built in 1936 by an Arab family but acquired by a Jewish family after the Israelis captured the city in 1948, this simple stone house has anchored for decades the hopes of both its displaced former owners and its new Jewish occupants.

With remarkable sensitivity to both families' grievances, Tolan chronicles the unlikely chain of events that in 1967 brought a long-dispossessed Palestinian son to the threshold of his former home, where he unexpectedly finds himself being welcomed by the daughter of Bulgarian Jewish immigrants. Though the visit exposes bitterly opposed interpretations of the past, it opens a real – albeit painful – dialogue about possibilities for the future. As he establishes the context for that dialogue, Tolan frankly details the interethnic hostilities that have scarred both families.

Yet he also allows readers to see the courage of families sincerely trying to understand their enemy. Only such courage has made possible the surprising conversion of the contested stone house into a kindergarten for Arab children and a center for Jewish-Arab coexistence. What has been achieved in one small stone building remains fragile in a land where peacemaking looks increasingly futile.

But Tolan opens the prospect of a new beginning in a concluding account of how Jewish and Arab children have together planted seeds salvaged from one desiccated lemon tree planted long ago behind one stone house. A much-needed antidote to the cynicism of realpolitik."

All are welcome to join the group and participate in our discussions which are always lively and informative.

*Anne Hayden & Ginny Lamere  
LWVCC Book Group Co-Chairs*

## 2013 “WHAT’S NEW!” HOUSE TOUR EDUCATES, RAISES RECORD AMOUNT

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The sun shone on housetop solar cells as visitor after visitor joined the April 6 LWVCC 2013 House Tour, “What’s New! Energy Efficiency, Accessibility and Design.” This was our 4<sup>th</sup> house tour and the first since April 2009.

The seven Concord houses, plus a bonus house, attracted over 400 people eager to see the house designs, hear about their efficiencies and special features, and learn from the displays of valuable information featuring businesses that helped to create these 21<sup>st</sup> century homes. The houses included geo-thermal energy systems, elevators, solar installations, accessible features throughout, extra insulation, master computer controls, water conservation, and other smart home technologies, all encompassed in attractive, easy to care for home designs.

The tour broke all LWVCC records, bringing in over \$23,000 before expenses. Net proceeds will exceed \$22,000. These funds will bolster our League’s community programming, including candidate forums and public policy speakers.

The League is grateful to the generous and gracious homeowners, who helped with the tour and its organization: Carrie and Bjorn Bjerke, Rob Comer and Inge Knudson, Susan Dee and Mark Johnson, Brian and Pamela Foulds, Jean Goulden, Norma and Ben Shapiro, and Kate Stout and Pete Funkhouser. They shared their enthusiasm and joy, welcoming and inspiring the tour goers.

We also appreciate our partnerships with our house tour sponsors, Barrett & Company, Basnett Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning, Budget Printing (in-kind), CMC Elevator, Concord Lamp and Shade, Concord Solar Challenge, Elm Bank Studio, JW Adams Construction, Nashawtuc Architects, Next Step Living, RES Solar, and Woodmeister Master Builders. Their participation ensured that the tour was a financial and educational success.

Other businesses chipped in generously to support the tour, including Footstock (color-coordinated cloth shoe bags), Priscilla’s (candy gifts for homeowners), Toy Shop of Concord (green and white balloons), Donna Thomas (graphic design for program and flyer) and Vicki Dhingra (delicious homebaked cookies for homeowners). Creative and beautiful floral arrangements were donated by Colonial Gardens, Concord Flower Shop, Crosby’s Marketplace Floral Shoppe, Mahoney’s Garden Centers, Verrill Farm, Wayside Florist and Winston Flowers.

A small army of hardworking and cheerful volunteers were essential to the tour’s success. On April 6, over 70 volunteers, including 45 League members and friends and 24 others coordinated by Coldwell Banker, Barrett & Company and Hammond Real Estate, planted signs and balloons, checked in guests, staffed the houses and provided assistance to all. Many thanks! (If anyone left the tour in the wrong pair of black loafers, call 978-254-1598 or email [HouseTour@lwvcc.org](mailto:HouseTour@lwvcc.org) to arrange a swap.)

The LWVCC’s house tour team led the charge and carried the day: Di Clymer (Chair), Holly Cratsley (Co-Chair), Lauren Bakewell (Treasurer), Barbara Lewis and Mary Chapman (Staffing), Erin Pastuszewski and Sue Curtin (Publicity), Julie Rohwein and Satish Dhingra (Program Book), Susan Sekuler (House Write-ups) and Dee Ortner (Registration). They are compiling lessons learned to help guide those who work on the next major LWVCC event. Congratulations on a winning effort!

In the end, the key element in our best-ever LWVCC House Tour were the many guests who chose to buy tickets and spend a day in Concord touring houses with green technologies, age-in-place features and functional, beautiful designs. We thank all of them for their support and enthusiasm. Their contributions will help our League to continue making democracy work.

## LWVCC ACTIVELY PROMOTES PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN GOV'T

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The following is a letter that the LWVCC sent to the Concord Board of Selectmen, Concord School Committee, Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee, CCHS Building Committee and Concord Finance Committee regarding the importance of encouraging the informed and active participation of Concord residents in Town government.

February 2013

Dear

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in local, state, and national government. We are non-partisan in that we do not support candidates or any political party. We study issues and seek to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Along with voter service activities, the League has ongoing efforts to enable citizen access to governmental meetings and deliberations, including having observers at some meetings of local government bodies.

The League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle has a Town Government Initiative Committee whose goal is to increase knowledge and understanding of our local government and encourage more interest and participation in the town.

The Town Government Initiative Committee has studied the Massachusetts Public Records Law and Open Meeting Law and their applicability to Town Boards and Committees. We find that the laws apply to all meetings of public bodies, including subcommittees, regardless of whether their role is decision-making or advisory. Conformance to this law is essential for full public access to information, and we hope that all committees and boards of the Town are following and will continue to follow the requirements of the law.

We have found the Town website to be a valuable source of information for both current and past meetings, records of discussions, votes, policies, and procedures. Concord's cable television network (CCTV) records all Selectmen and most School Committees meetings and is an extremely valuable resource for the town. We also hope that at some point in the future all Finance Committee meetings will be televised in addition to the public hearings already televised.

We thank all of you for the time and effort that you give to our Town. We look forward to working with you to find ways to increase the level of understanding and participation in town government.

Very truly yours,

Paula Vandever, Co-President

# SUNSHINE WEEK 2013

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Sunshine Week ([www.sunshineweek.org](http://www.sunshineweek.org)) is a national initiative to promote the importance of open government and freedom of information.

The following letter was printed in the March 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Concord Journal*.

March 11, 2013  
Ms. Kathie Ragsdale  
Editor, The Concord Journal  
150 Baker Avenue Ext.  
Concord MA 01742

To the Editor:

March 10-16 is Sunshine Week, an annual nationwide effort to call attention to transparency in government and freedom of information. It is a reminder to us about how important it is to make our voices heard all year long, not just on Election Day.

We all have the right to know what our government is doing, both its successes and failures. Exercising our right to know gives us -- the public -- power. It allows us to contribute to our government and hold elected officials accountable. But these laws are only as good as we demand that they be.

We encourage everyone to attend a local government meeting and visit Concord's website ([www.concordma.gov](http://www.concordma.gov)) to read about what our local government and schools are doing. In particular, we urge everyone to learn about the Town Warrant Articles and participate in Concord's Annual Town Meeting, starting April 22. Presentations made at recently held hearings about the Articles can be found at Concord's website. Go to Important Documents, click Town Meeting, and then click 2013 Town Meeting Hearing Presentations.

For decades, members of the League of Women Voters have acted as government watchdogs at the federal, state, and local levels to hold government accountable. Make your voice heard and join us in keeping Concord a healthy, vibrant, and strong community for all.

Sincerely,

Paula Vandever  
Co-President  
Concord-Carlisle League of Women Voters

### **What is Sunshine Week?**

For the past two years, our League has sent a letter to the Concord Journal drawing attention to Sunshine Week. The Florida Society of Newspaper Editors (FSNE) launched Sunshine Sunday in 2002 in response to efforts by some Florida legislators to create scores of new exemptions to the state's public records law. Several states followed Florida's lead, and in June 2003, the American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE) hosted a Freedom of Information Summit in Washington where the seeds for Sunshine Week were planted.

With an inaugural grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, which has continued to support this effort, Sunshine Week was launched by the ASNE in March 2005. This non-partisan, non-profit initiative is celebrated in mid-March each year to coincide with James Madison's birthday on March 16. In 2001, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press joined ASNE as a national co-coordinator of Sunshine Week, enabling the organizations to join forces and resources to produce Toolkit materials for participants and keep the website and social media sites engaged.

Sunshine Week is a set aside time to focus on the public's right to know what its government is doing and why. Massachusetts has an Open Meeting Law and a Public Records Law (akin to

Freedom of Information at Federal level). These laws spell out what is required of State and local governments regarding posting of agendas and minutes, the right of the public to access records and documents with few exceptions, and much more. The Open Meeting Law defines what is a meeting, a deliberation, a public body, and the need to avoid serial deliberation (discussing business from one person of a board/committee to another without public knowledge). The law even states a copy charge of a maximum of 20 cents per page and 50 cents for computer printouts. There are various time limits for requests, responses, and appeals. The laws tell you the extent and limits of public information.

You can access A Guide to the Massachusetts Public Records Law at [www.sec.state.ma.us/pre/prepdf/guide.pdf](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/pre/prepdf/guide.pdf) and the Open Meeting Law at <http://www.mass.gov/ago/openmeeting>.

As residents of early American towns, let's ponder what James Madison said about open government almost 200 years ago (quote below). His words remain a call to action today.

*Ardis Bordman, Co-Chair  
Town Government Initiative Committee*

*“A popular government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy; or, perhaps, both.”  
President James Madison*

# VOTER SERVICE

Barbara Lewis (Carlisle) and Erin Pastuszewski (Concord)

Contact Erin or Barbara anytime, by phone or at [VoterService@lwvcc.org](mailto:VoterService@lwvcc.org), if you'd like to get involved with the League's work on voting and elections.

## Dates and Deadlines for Voters

Mon., April 22 7pm, CCHS	Concord Annual Town Meeting begins (adjourned sessions April 23-25, 29-30, as needed)
Mon., April 29 7pm, Corey Aud.	Carlisle Annual Town Meeting
Tue., April 30	Special State Primary for U.S. Senate
Tue., May 7	Carlisle Town Election
Wed., June 5	Last Day to Register to Vote in June 25 Election
Tue., June 25	Special State Election for U.S. Senate

## Absentee Voting

Absentee voting is not permitted for town meetings. Registered voters must be present to vote at the Concord or Carlisle town meeting.

For elections in Concord and Carlisle, the polls are open from 7am to 8pm. If you are unable to get to your polling place in person due to (1) absence from the town during polling hours, (2) disability, or (3) religious beliefs, then you may vote by absentee ballot. The deadline for applying for an absentee ballot is noon on the day before an election. Absentee ballots may be voted in person at the Town Clerk's office no later than noon of the day before an election. For absentee ballots mailed by the Town Clerk to the voter, completed ballots should be returned to the Town Clerk's office before the polls close on election day.

Absentee ballot applications are available from your Town Clerk, or you can download one at <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleifv/howabs.htm>. For more information about absentee ballots, contact your Town Clerk's office:

- Carlisle Town Clerk, Charlene Hinton, [chinton@carlisle.mec.edu](mailto:chinton@carlisle.mec.edu), 978-369-6155

- Concord Town Clerk, Anita Tekle, [TownClerk@concordma.gov](mailto:TownClerk@concordma.gov), 978-318-3080

## LWV of Massachusetts Voter's Guide for U.S. Senate Election

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts asked all of the primary candidates seeking to fill the seat formerly held by John Kerry to participate in an online voter guide. LWVMA's Voter's Guide is now available at:

<http://lwvma.org/u-s-senate-primary-election-voters-guide/>.

## Carlisle Update

In February, a committee of Carlisle League members, including Town Clerk Charlene Hinton, reviewed the 'blue pages' in the Carlisle Town Directory that cover information on Town Government and revised them to provided corrections and updates.

In Carlisle, every office on the May 7 Town Election ballot has a single unopposed candidate running. LWVCC applauds all of the candidates for their willingness to serve the community. LWVCC will not host a candidate forum in Carlisle this spring, given the lack of contested races. The League will continue to encourage residents to get involved in local government by running for office or serving in appointed positions.

## Volunteer to Help CCHS Students Register to Vote

For the second year in a row, LWVCC plans to offer voter registration to the graduating CCHS seniors at the Senior BBQ on the afternoon of Wednesday, June 5. If you'd like to help with this project, or with voter registration outreach at other high schools in the area this spring, please let Erin or Barbara know at

[VoterService@lwvcc.org](mailto:VoterService@lwvcc.org) or by phone. This is

one of the most fun and easy things the League does, so don't be shy about volunteering!

If June 5 is not a good day for you, and you'd like to participate in future voter registration efforts (like Carlisle's Old Home Day, Concord's Picnic in the Park, Back to School Nights in the fall, or outreach to new residents of our towns), please let us know.

### **Be a LWVCC Voter Service Sign Host!**

Does your property front on a busy road? Would you be willing to host on your roadside a LWV "VOTE Tuesday" sign before elections or a LWV reminder sign before town meetings? We are not able to post signs in many of the public property locations we've used in the past, due to a recent change in Town of Concord policy, so we need to find some new spots to plant our lawn signs with their public service announcements! Please email [VoterService@lwvcc.org](mailto:VoterService@lwvcc.org) for details. Thank you for helping, if you can.

### **March 3 Concord Candidates' Forum Drew a Big Crowd**

The LWVCC's Concord Candidates' Forum was held on Sunday, March 3, 2013, at 2:00 p.m., at the Willard Elementary School. We moved from our original date to assure that all candidates running in contested races could attend, and we switched our venue from the Town House to the auditorium at Willard to allow for a large audience. Around 180 people came to see the four candidates running for two School Committee seats (Lisa Bergen, Joanna Boynton, Cynthia Rainey and Kathi Snook), and most stayed to hear from the two uncontested candidates for Board of Selectmen (Alice Kaufman and Carmin Reiss).

Nancy Carapezza of the LWV of Wayland moderated for us once again, asking the candidates to respond to League questions and questions from the public (some submitted by email and some written by the live audience). Reporters from the *Concord Journal* and *Concord Patch* covered the forum, and CCTV aired it up to the election and made it available on demand online.

Forums like ours wouldn't happen without a strong team of volunteers. We thank the following LWVCC members for working with forum organizer Erin Pastuszewski to ensure the success of our program:

- Cindy Nock, Judy Hill and Julie Rohwein (video/audio)
- Kathleen Elcox (photographer)
- Dee Ortner and Barbara Anthony (LWV questions)
- Dee Ortner and Judy LaRocca (question sorters)
- Maura Perkins and Rebecca Purcell (timekeepers)
- Paula Vandever (introductions)
- Anita Barker, Mary Chapman, Marge Daggett, Irmi Doan, Ashley Galvin (ushering)
- Nancy Beeuwkes (flowers)

Kudos to all for a job well done!

### **Concord Voter Guide with the Concord Journal**

As we have for several years, we collaborated with the *Concord Journal* on a local election voter guide that was published on March 14, the Thursday before Election Day. All candidates running in the Concord Town Election (including the uncontested candidates who were unable to participate in our March 3 forum, Eric Van Loon and Dennon Rodrigue) submitted biographical information and a statement on priority issues. Those statements are still available on LWVCC's website at <http://lwvcc.org/2013ConcordVoterGuide.html>.

### **Voter Service Policies Working Group**

After taking a break during the busy local election season and the run-up to the LWVCC house tour, the Voter Service Policies Working Group will continue its work of reviewing and updating LWVCC's policies for candidate forums. If you would like to learn more about this project, please contact Erin at [VoterService@lwvcc.org](mailto:VoterService@lwvcc.org).

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

At the state level, LWVMA is following four, significant pieces of legislation related to the environment and natural resources. H.2532 “An Act Relative to shifting from carbon emissions to transportation investment” is described first because it is new this session and public understanding and awareness of this bill is necessary for it to progress through the legislative process.

Detailed information about all four bills can be found in the LWVCC Annual. Please keep up to date on and support these bills by reading and responding upcoming action alerts from LWVMA!

**H.2532:**            **An Act Relative to shifting from carbon emissions to transportation investment**  
**Chief Sponsors:**   **Senator Michael Barrett and Representative Thomas Conroy**  
**Committee:**        **Joint Committee on Revenue**

H.2532 would put a price on carbon as a means of reducing consumption of fossil fuels and associated emissions related to global warming and pollution, while also spurring investment in transportation infrastructure and development of clean energy. H.2532 also has provisions for offsetting the impact of higher fuel costs on low income households.

###

**S.386:**            **An Act relative to information technology producer responsibility, Senator Pacheco.**  
**Chief Sponsor:**   **Senator Marc Pacheco**  
**Committee:**        **Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

*S.357: An Act to require producer responsibility for collection, reuse and recycling of discarded electronic products, Senator Eldridge.*

*H.803: An Act to require producer responsibility for collection, reuse and recycling of discarded electronic products, Representative Smizik.*

The three bills listed above were reported out of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture (JEN) on 3/26/13. S.386 was reported favorably by Joint Committee with S.357 and H.803 attached to

S.836. Please note that S.357 (Senator Eldridge) and H.803 (Representative Smizik) are identical. The fact that the Eldridge/Smizik bills were attached to the Pacheco bill does not guarantee that a new bill emerging from Senate Ways and Means will include any of the positive provisions found in those bills. The **Eldridge/Smizik bills are considered more effective bills** by E-Waste bill proponents because it builds on what is currently in place within the state and is designed to increase recycling and reuse of E-Waste.

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**S.354/H.235:**        **An Act Relative to Healthy Families and Businesses**  
**Chief Sponsors:**   **Senator Kenneth Donnelly and Representative Jay Kaufman**  
**Committee:**        **Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture; new assignment TBD.**

The purpose of this bill is to begin to eliminate toxic chemicals in consumer products by requiring the replacement or substitution of the toxic substance with a safer alternative substance or process. The plan would apply annually to a maximum of 5 toxic chemicals known to have serious human health effects (cancer, asthma, birth defects, neurological damage, etc.) with priority given to toxic chemicals used in children's products and those which consistently expose workers to chemical harm.

**H.2943 /S.1588: An Act Updating the  
Bottle Bill**  
**Chief Sponsors: Representative Jonathan  
Hecht and Senator  
Cynthia Creem**  
**Committee: Joint Committee on  
Telecommunications,  
Utilities and Energy**

The purpose of the bill is to update the highly effective 5-cent container deposit law (The 1982 Bottle Bill) to include non-carbonated, nonalcoholic beverage containers (bottled water, juice, ice tea, energy drinks etc.), which will increase recycling in Massachusetts by an estimated 1 billion additional beverage containers annually.

*Launa Zimmaro, LWVCC &  
LWVMA Energy & Resource Conservation*

*“Knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives.”*

*President James Madison*